

# The Library Assistant:

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## PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Editorials ... ..	153
Adult Education and the Public Library, by H. A. Sharp ... ..	159
Our Library ... ..	165
Books of the Month ... ..	167
Presidential Address ... ..	167
The Divisions ... ..	174

## EDITORIALS.

**The New Officers and Council.**—This year Mr. H. A. Sharp, of Croydon, occupies the Presidential chair. The Association is to be congratulated on its choice, for few men we believe have done so much for the welfare of the Association, or taken a keener interest in its work. Mr. Sharp's labours are so well-known that it is unnecessary to tell of them again, except perhaps, the fact that for nine years he edited the "Library Assistant." Through troublous and uncertain times Mr. Sharp piloted the Journal with a sure hand. There were days when it was but a mere pamphlet, and it was owing to his energy that, unlike other journals, it survived. We have no hesitation at all in saying that the Association has placed in the Presidential chair a man who will add honour to it.

We welcome, too, the new Council, amongst which there is but one new face, and sympathise with the unsuccessful candidates.

This year promises to be a full one, with the Public Libraries Committee, Classes for Assistants, and many other matters to engage the attention.

**Mr. G. T. Shaw.**—We heartily congratulate the Chief Librarian of Liverpool, who has recently had the Honorary Degree of M.A. conferred on him by Liverpool University for his services to scholarship and librarianship.

**Annual Meeting.**—The forest of Essex proved a charming prelude to a rather weighty evening. In the early afternoon members met at Chingford, where Mr. Roebuck, the Chief Librarian of Walthamstow, and his Staff, received them. The route, specially chosen by Mr. Howard Smith, a well-known Essex antiquarian, was a cool shade in the torrid heat. Through pollard, willow and beech woods the path meandered, the lovely summer afternoon

"Annihilating all that's made  
To a green thought in a green shade."

Our objective, the Royal Forest Hotel, was reached according to plan. A pleasant, leisurely tea, and the party proceeded to Walthamstow Library for the general meeting.

Immediately on the return of the ramblers from Epping Forest, the Business Meeting commenced with a few words of welcome from Councillor Frost, in place of Councillor Cuddington, who accorded the Association a hearty welcome to one of London's dormitories, as he called Walthamstow. After the Hon. Secretary had read the Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting, the adoption of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet was moved by the retiring President. Messrs. G. P. Jones, R. Cooper and F. E. Sandry briefly spoke in support of the adoption and the motion was put and carried unanimously, there being practically no discussion on either the report or the balance sheet.

The result of the ballot for the new Council appears in this issue, as does the address of the incoming President. Mr. Sharp is among the best-known of the officers of our Association, and his address was a model of scholarly common-sense tinged with optimism. We feel sure that the standard of dignity which has been upheld by a splendid line of Presidents will be adequately maintained during Mr. Sharp's year of office—we would that more non-members of the A.A.L. had heard his address. The idea of taking a delight in one's work is nowadays, perhaps, deemed old-fashioned. May the number of old-fashioned assistants in our profession increase, then we shall not need to use publicity methods in order to raise status!

With his customary eloquence, Mr. W. Benson Thorne moved the vote of thanks to the retiring Officers and Council, mentioning in particular the splendid work of the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Editor, and the vigorous enthusiasm of the retiring President. Mr. Vale (possibly as the man at the head of the poll), responded to this vote of thanks and, waxing reminiscent, mentioned that joining Mr. Roebuck's staff one Monday morning he became a member of the (then) L.A.A. the same day, and attended his first meeting on the Wednesday. Mr. Roebuck's work for the assistant was mentioned both by Mr. Sandry and Mr. Parker, who moved and seconded respectively, a vote of thanks to Mr. Roebuck and his enthusiastic staff, a vote of thanks that was heartily carried by the meeting.

Mr. Roebuck we know as an enthusiast and idealist, and this sense of enthusiasm he has inculcated into his staff, who, at the conclusion of the meeting, guided the members through the various departments of the library, and materially assisted to make this Annual Meeting worthy of the Association.

F. T. B.

The result of the ballot for Officers and Council is as follows:—

*President*: Mr. H. A. SHARP, Croydon Public Libraries.  
*Vice-President*: Mr. R. W. PARSONS, Bradford Public Libraries.  
*Hon. Editor*: Mr. H. CROSS, Croydon Public Libraries.  
*Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. R. COOPER, Battersea Public Libraries.  
*Hon. Secretary*: Mr. G. P. JONES, Stepney Public Libraries.

### COUNCIL.

#### DIVISIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

*Midland*: Mr. G. L. BURTON, Birmingham.  
*North-Eastern*: Mr. W. E. HURFORD, Newcastle.  
*North-Western*: Mr. T. J. EVANS, Liverpool.  
*South Coast*: Miss E. GERARD, Worthing.  
*Yorkshire*: Mr. G. W. STROTHER, Leeds.

#### LONDON.

Vale, G. F. Bethnal Green ...	177
Parker, W. H., Hackney ...	157
Bussey, F. T., Hackney. ...	154
Rees, Miss G., Fulham ...	147
Sandry, F. E., West Ham ...	144
Bullen, R. F., Poplar ...	141
Smith, R. D. H., Richmond ...	133
Wright, R., Wandsworth ...	129
Fairweather, Miss L., Kingston-on-Thames ...	108
Exley, Miss E. M., S. Marylebone	100
<i>Not elected—</i>	
O'Leary, J. G., Bethnal Green.	82
Waite, C. H., Kensington ...	75
Austing, A. T., Wood Green ..	70
White, A. G., West Ham ...	61
Jenn, A. H., Lambeth...	50

#### COUNTRY.

Briggs, I., Newcastle ...	164
Cashmore, H. M., Birmingham	155
Muskett, T. W., Huddersfield.	142
Webb, A., Brighton ...	126
Chubb, L., Birmingham ...	97

#### *Not elected—*

Weston, Miss M. E., Birmingham.	83
Phillips, W. A., Liverpool ...	74
Jackson, C. M., Sunderland ...	61
Smettem, W. H., Sunderland ...	53

**Eastern Counties Division.**—The Inaugural Meeting was held at the Central Public Library, Ipswich, on 21st May, by the invitation of the Borough Librarian (Mr. L. R. McColvin, F.L.A., the Vice-President of the Division). Nearly every member in the Division attended, the Libraries represented being Ipswich, Lowestoft, Norwich, and Yarmouth. The members were welcomed by Major Elliston, the Chairman of the Ipswich Public Libraries Committee, and, after an inspection of the recently opened Central Library, were entertained to tea by the Ipswich staff. As a souvenir of the inaugural meeting, a photograph of the group was taken by Mr. H. G. Wood (Norwich Public Libraries), and is reproduced in this issue.

At the meeting which followed, Mr. McColvin presided and expressed the pleasure all present had in being supported by the representatives of the Council of the Association—the President-elect (Mr. H. A. Sharp, F.L.A.), and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Gurner Jones, B.A., M.L.A.), who were going to read papers on the Association and its aims and objects.

Mr. Jones said that his duty was to act as historian; Mr. Sharp would follow him, and don the prophet's mantle. He outlined the development of the Association in 1895, which was prompted by the desire of assistant librarians for better educational and professional opportunities, and showed that its growth had been continuous. He enumerated the various efforts that had been made by the Association—efforts which had met with a large measure of success, both in regard to educational matters and also in regard to the more material questions of working conditions such as salaries and hours.

Mr. Sharp followed with a paper dealing in principle with the aims and objects of the Association, and indicated possible future developments.

After several questions had been answered, a discussion was introduced by two members of the Ipswich staff: Mr. Callender, who read a paper favouring the view that the professional interests of the librarian would be better served by one association and one periodical only, and Miss Ovell, who read a paper from the contrary point of view.

Votes of thanks to Mr. Sharp and Mr. Jones for their inspiring papers, and to Mr. Callender and Miss Ovell for the interesting discussion which they had introduced, were carried on the proposition of Miss Alexander, M.L.A. (Norwich), seconded by Miss Goymour (Ipswich).

Mr. Jones and Mr. Sharp briefly replied.

Mr. G. A. Stephen, F.L.A. (City Librarian, Norwich, and Hon. President of the Division), in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. McColvin and the Ipswich staff for their hospitality, briefly referred to the papers of Messrs. Jones and Sharp, and twitted Mr. Jones on his reference "To age the vigour of youth," which, although Mr. Jones had used it in contrasting the earlier days of the Association with the later period when those members of the Association who had become chiefs were able to retain their connection with the Association, he (Mr. Stephen) really thought must refer to him, the oldest member of the profession present, as he had made his debut in the public library while the Secretary had scarcely left his cradle days.

Mr. Pike (Great Yarmouth), the Chairman of the Division, seconded the vote, which was carried with acclamation.

Mr. McColvin, in reply, said that in justice to Mr. Callender, it should be stated that he had, for the sake of initiating a discussion, attempted the difficult task of propounding that with which he did not agree.

The next meeting will be held at Lowestoft Public Library, by invitation of the Borough Librarian (Miss Durrant), on the 8th July.

**The Government Committee and Ourselves.**—As the Government Committee on Libraries is still stitting, we cannot be expected to

dwell on its work at any length yet, but we think it is due to our members to know that the Association of Assistant Librarians submitted its evidence on Tuesday, 23rd June. The deputation chosen to lay it before the Committee consisted of Miss G. Rees (Fulham), Mr. I. Briggs (Newcastle), Mr. R. W. Parsons (Bradford), Mr. F. E. Sandry (West Ham), Mr. H. A. Sharp (Croydon), and the Honorary Secretary, Mr. G. P. Jones.

Briefly stated, the evidence comprised a short statement of the Association's scope and aims and considered views on professional education, hours of duty, conditions of entrance to the profession, and remuneration. Generally speaking, questions of pure library policy and organization were left alone, although in the course of cross-questioning, views on certain of these matters were put forward when they were sought.

All the members of the deputation desire to place on record their appreciation of the cordial and sympathetic way in which we were received by the Committee, under the Chairmanship of Sir Frederick Kenyon. Fully an hour and a half were spent with the Committee, going through the various items in the evidence which had been previously printed by the Association, and circulated, and in answering questions which arose out of it. The proceedings were of the friendliest possible nature, and although it must be confessed that some of us were a little fearful at the prospect of facing a Committee of which many stories were abroad, we came away feeling that we had had an interesting experience, and had carried out a useful piece of work for the Association. We shall probably have more to say in this connexion at a more seasonable time.

**Brighton Meeting.**—From every point of view, except that of weather, the joint meeting of the London and South Coast Divisions, held at Brighton on Wednesday, May 27th, may be accounted a great success.

Just over thirty travelled from town, the others being members of the South Coast Division from Brighton, Eastbourne, Hove, Lewes, Portsmouth and Worthing.

At lunch the party was joined by our South Coast friends, including Mr. A. Webb (Chairman), Miss G. Dean (Hon. Secretary), Mr. A. M. Hamblyn (Hon. Treasurer), Miss E. Gerard, and Mr. H. Wilson (County Librarian, East Sussex).

After lunch visits were paid to the Aquarium, the Public Library, Museums, Art Galleries and Dome, the parties being conducted by Miss Young, and Messrs. Law, Male and Webb.

The general meeting which followed was presided over by Mr. Arthur Webb (Chairman of the South Coast Division). Welcoming the visitors to Brighton, Mr. Webb recalled that the last visit to that town by the London Association was in July, 1907. He pointed out

that there were few present that afternoon who attended the 1907 meeting; and that many of the problems that agitated us eighteen years ago, had been more or less satisfactorily settled.

Mr. Webb then called upon Mr. Henry D. Roberts, M.B.E., Director of the Public Library and Art Galleries, at Brighton, to deliver an address on "Library Service of the Future."

Speaking without a single note, Mr. Roberts immediately found touch with his audience. His address was intensely human, characteristically personal, and full of witty asides.

Commencing with an autobiographical picture of service in a public library forty years ago, Mr. Roberts worked through the years to the present time and ended on a note of optimism for the future—with the warning that the future largely is in our own hands—and that the first consideration must be conscientious and ungrudging service to the great public whom we serve. It is hoped to print a resumé of Mr. Roberts' remarks in an early issue of this journal.

Messrs. Jones, Wright, Wilson, Vale, and Smith contributed to the discussion which ensued.

Replying to a vote of thanks moved by Mr. Gurner P. Jones (Hon. Secretary), Mr. Roberts pointed out that he was the only person in the world who was an Hon. Fellow of both the Library Association and Association of Assistant Librarians, and that in his dealings with his staff he never forgot that he was once an assistant, and ended by paying a splendid and obviously sincere tribute to the enthusiasm and efficiency of his own staff.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and to the Brighton Staff for hospitality, moved by Mr. H. A. Sharp, and replied to by Mr. E. Male, concluded the proceedings.

With his usual thoughtfulness, Mr. Roberts arranged for copies of his "Story of the Royal Pavilion," and "Book of Brighton," to be distributed to all present, after which the party were conducted over the state apartments of the Pavilion.

A return to the Regent Restaurant for tea followed, after which some brave souls faced the elements and viewed the Channel from the Palace Pier while others joined in an impromptu dance at the Pavilion, the last fox-trot being "It ain't gonna rain no mo'," which was encouraging seeing that a perfect deluge had descended during the day.

The London members were seen off by some of the Brighton staff, and everybody agreed that a full and interesting day had been spent.

We take this opportunity of thanking all our Brighton friends for a very enjoyable day, and particularly Mr. A. Webb, Reference Librarian, and Miss G. Dean, the Hon. Sec. of the Division, who made the arrangements.

**Our Next Issue** is due on 1st September. We wish all our members a pleasant and happy holiday, and a return to their labours, at their daily work and in behalf of the Association, with renewed energy.

**1,000 Members.**—We are still some way off the 1,000 mark. Our membership represents about 25 per cent. of the total available throughout the country. This membership figure is much too low. Can't YOU get a member?

**Marriage.**—We offer our heartiest congratulations to Mr. L. Chubb, Chairman of the Midland Division, on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Gwendoline Blow, at Bournemouth, on May 23rd.

**Wallasey.**—The new South Branch Library at Seacombe was opened on 5th May, by Prof. R. S. Rait, President of the Library Association. In the course of his remarks, Prof. Rait said: "It is difficult to believe to-day that the very beginning of the Public Library movement in this country dates only from the middle of the 19th century, and that its progress was very slow until the last ten years of that century. The advance of the last thirty years has been very great, and who can estimate the impulse in life and thought which that advance has given to the nation?"

"He thought, therefore, that municipalities were amply justified in using their revenues to give their citizens an opportunity of living intelligently. The public library was absolutely the best means of educating the public—and it was the cheapest. In fact, he was inclined to think it too cheap, and that more might with advantage be spent on it. Concluding, Professor Rait referred in terms of keen admiration to the library system operating in Wallasey."

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## ADULT EDUCATION AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

By HENRY A. SHARP, F.L.A.,

*Deputy-Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.*

(Continued from p. 127.)

Nor is the question of close classification less important, and yet after seventy-five years, how many libraries there are which are still in this respect in a state of semi-chaos. In fact, even such a periodical as "Punch" has seen fit to tilt at us when it printed the extract from the report of a public library, headed "Our Cynical Librarians":—

"The number of books taken during the last three months was 850. The classification is as follows: 5 Adventure, 1 Comedies, 801 Friction, 18 History, 5 Magazines, 3 Poetry, 16 Welsh, 1 Literature."

Leaving those things on one side, with the barest possible reference, it remains yet to be seen what we can do to help those

groups of students in their work. In one case, which has been under my personal observation, the Libraries Committee has very generously allowed the free use of the lecture hall to as many educational bodies as it is possible to accommodate within the six nights of the working week, while in addition, particulars are collected, tabulated and published concerning practically every educational activity within the town. Some idea of the extent and value of this work may be gathered, when it is known that during a single winter, such particulars were made available of no fewer than 697 lectures, classes, and similar meetings.

In connexion with every one of the meetings and lectures which was held on the library premises, and in some other cases as well, the resources of the library were made freely available, by means of lists and privilege issues.

This may be a convenient stage at which to discuss the general question of the value and importance of lectures, of the individual, isolated lectures commonly known as Library talks, on the one hand, and of the co-ordinated courses arranged by the Workers' Educational Association, The Local University Extension Committee, and similar bodies, on the other.

Most of us are probably agreed that the individual popular lecture has practically no sustained educational value whatever, although, if brought into contact with the appropriate literature it may yet serve quite a useful purpose; but with the course of lectures the case is very different.

It may not be known to all of you, but the American Library Association regards this question as so urgent that it has set up a commission on the library and Adult Education, which suggests that our activities in this field are at least of a three fold nature. (1) A specialised service and advice to readers. (2) The supply of information about particulars for Adult Education. (3) Co-operation with other Adult Education enterprises.

In developing these items, I have tried to adapt the views expressed by the commission referred to, to the conditions pertaining to British libraries. First then, with regard to this idea of a specialized service and advice to readers. It cannot be gainsaid that such a service is wholly educational, and that it should take the form of planning courses of reading for individual and group students. It must be made clear too, that this type of work is totally distinct from the more general work done in the Reference and Home Reading Departments, in that the adviser—as the Americans call him—is concerned entirely with the needs of particular individuals, while there is a personal contact which cannot always be made in the ordinary rough and tumble of our



work. This educational service differs from that carried out by the ordinary educational agencies, such as schools and colleges, in that it is entirely individual, for it is astonishing and often very little realised that there are many people who are prepared to follow systematic courses of study independently, who would hesitate either by reason of age or educational attainment to join any of the more formal organised methods of acquiring such education.

The success or failure of this advisory agency depends first and foremost upon the person who is placed in charge of it. It is superfluous to say that he must be well-educated, but at the same time, he must be trained and experienced in the organization and handling of printed material suited to the very varied needs of all those who will seek his help. He or she must be enthusiastic, tactful and sympathetic.

In a sense, this is an application of what we know more commonly as the information bureau idea, and it will be therefore, the first duty of the person in charge to collect, classify and make available as many reading lists, bibliographies, reading courses, etc., as possible. Into every library there must come large numbers of bulletins, catalogues, lists, etc., most of which are glanced at more or less casually, thrust aside and ultimately scrapped, whereas by the expenditure of a little labour and a few pounds on a vertical file, these could form the nucleus of an array of invaluable material.

With this material, backed always by as sound a collection of books as the libraries' funds will permit, our adviser should be open to do business either with the bodies who are out to promote adult education, or with individuals working on their own, who perhaps need personal attention more than anyone else.

There is just one practical point here which seems worth mentioning, and that is, in the event of our being unable at the moment to fix up an enquirer with a reading list, he should be given something to go on with, for here as in everything else, there is nothing like striking while the iron is hot.

We must recognize that with us library finances are not quite what they are in America, and it may not be practicable to appoint such a person who will devote the whole of his time to this work. This leads me to say something about the accessibility of librarians to students; in far too many cases the most serious enquirers are left to the not always tender mercies of assistants, who in the very nature of things cannot be expected to give the best advice on reading. In small libraries, the chief librarian should be accessible at reasonable hours, and in larger library systems, the

deputy or a responsible librarian-in-charge should be equally accessible, and what is still more important, the fact should be known.

And then there is the use of specialists, a point upon which I am quite aware there is a wide difference of opinion, the recommendations of one very often cancelling those of another. Even so, every library should have a panel of specialists who are willing to be consulted regarding the literature of their particular branch of learning. Particulars of such a panel can be easily kept on a classified card index.

I began this section of my remarks by advocating the setting aside of one individual, whose whole duty it was to develop this side of the library's work, and to be free at all times to deal with personal applications for assistance in after school education. But if such a scheme is not practicable, it would be a useful plan if members of libraries staffs were encouraged to specialize along particular lines towards which they may have a natural bent. The result would be a very considerable force of useful material.

Adult Education is only a continuation of the earlier school education, and I should like, therefore, to commend to your notice the excellent scheme which is in operation at Poplar, whereby every boy and girl of school-leaving age, visits the library shortly before leaving school. On this occasion, the value of the library as a means of after-school education is explained by a member of the staff, and it seems that if by such means as this we can ensure the continuance of the library habit, we shall have performed a very useful piece of service.

As I have indicated earlier, the library which sets out to do systematic Adult Educational work, must find it necessary to collect and make accessible for public use all the information obtainable concerning educational particulars in and around the library district. Such a file of information will be useful to enable the librarian to answer enquiries from individuals desirous of making use of such educational opportunities as are provided. It will form a basis upon which may be built up a scheme of co-operation with all such agencies. It can be made to show at a glance exactly what fields are covered, and what fields might be usefully opened up. Whatever else it does, it will certainly prove to be a revelation to the greater part of the community as to the tremendous amount of educational particulars which do exist at their very doors.

At the present time, in how many libraries is it possible to obtain precise information as to what lectures are held in the town, what subjects they cover, what classes there are in this, that or the other subject? What University Extension, Workers'

Educational Association, or other similar courses of lectures are there? And yet we ought to do this.

As we are concerned to-night almost exclusively with the practical side of the subject, may I be allowed just to say a word about library planning in its relationship to Adult Education. There is no need to labour the fact, but it is well known that one of the greatest difficulties with which adult students have to contend is, not only the securing of suitable meeting places for formal classes and lectures, but of an actual place in which to pursue their private studies in a suitable atmosphere. To this end I would urge the attention of librarians to a more general adoption of the study room idea as it has been developed in America; the idea is the setting aside of a comparatively small room equipped with self-contained study tables, at which students may read and write unhindered. I am aware that the idea has been embodied in modern reference libraries to some extent; it is, in fact, embodied to a very considerable extent at the very library at which we are meeting to-night, but, such an adoption is by no means general. The old idea of the long table made to seat eight or ten people dies hard, and yet it is scarcely necessary to point out, that serious study under such conditions is well nigh impossible.

And may I go further and be allowed to say that even the lending library lends itself to considerable improvement in connexion with our subject. In fact, one may go so far as to say that the ideal student's lending library still has to be planned. As far as I know, the nearest approach to a lending library which is of any real use to students is the one recently planned by Mr. Savage at Edinburgh, an illustration of which I have taken the liberty of circulating. It seems to me that we have still very much to learn in connexion with this aspect of library planning.

Last summer, I had the privilege of attending the Coming-of-Age Celebrations of the Workers' Educational Association at Oxford, when various aspects of this subject were discussed. It was particularly interesting to hear the views that were put forward in the course of the discussion. The two urgent needs of the bodies who are immediately concerned with the work seem to be, adequate supplies of books, and central, easily accessible meeting places in which the various classes and reading circles can be conducted in suitable atmospheres. Of the keen enthusiasm of the promoters of Adult Education there can be no possible doubt whatever, but if one may be allowed to offer one word of criticism, it is that in urging their claims for consideration, they are apt to overlook the fact that there are many bodies which are advancing similar claims. At the meeting, Mr. Jast read an interesting paper on "Public Libraries and Book Supply" in the course

of which he dealt with the question from the point of view of the librarian. He emphasized the fact that for this particular form of education, the public library was the main and in many cases the only available source of book supply. One of the great difficulties which librarians had to face in dealing with this Adult Education problem was the fact that although the former financial limitations had been removed by act of Parliament, yet at the same time the increased cost of book production had resulted in the majority of libraries now being very little better off than in pre-war days. Consequently, it was difficult to see how library authorities could purchase, from ordinary book funds, large numbers of copies of the same works which were required by the various agencies concerned in this work. The question of the provision of mere textbooks may be dismissed at once, for it is surely reasonable to expect that a person who joins a class will be prepared at least to provide himself with one essential textbook, but apart from these there are many other books which it is desirable for every member of the class to have access to. It would seem that what is required is some central repository, supported either wholly or partly by the State, which would make itself responsible for the collection and dissemination of these numbers of copies of the same work. The Central Library for Students has done something in this direction, but very much more needs to be done if the demand is to be adequately supplied. Whether or not some such repository is established, it seems doubtful whether public libraries can ear-mark a large portion of their still limited incomes to this more or less special work. It has been suggested, however, that as the work is directly educational, it would not be unreasonable to expect that the local educational authority should make an annual grant for this particular purpose. I believe that I am right in saying that this has been done in numbers of places.

Just here, I should like to make one very practical if obvious suggestion, and that is that all directors of classes and reading circles within the area surrounded by the library should be invited to send to the librarian, lists of desirable books to be procured and made available in connexion with the course, and further, that if the class is not actually held on the library premises, it should pay a visit at the beginning of the course to the library for the purpose of seeing exactly what resources the libraries really do possess. A tour of the various departments of the library, a few words from the librarian on the facilities which the library has to offer, and an examination of a little exhibition of books has been known to fulfill a most useful purpose in this connexion.

### OUR LIBRARY.

Finsbury Public Libraries : Classified Catalogue of Music and the Literature of Music. x + 234 pp. 1925. Price, 3d., post free, 7d.

This well printed and produced Catalogue is evidence of the growing popularity and demand for good music, and the efforts which are being made to supply the demand.

The Catalogue, which is arranged under subjects—by the Library of Congress Classification, the most detailed we possess—is in three main parts : (1) Music Instrumental and Vocal ; (2) History and Criticism of Music ; (3) Instruction and Study of Music. All " Collections and Albums " containing music by various composers have been analysed and classified, and each piece is entered under the composer's name, works of individual composers have also been analysed and classified, thus the Catalogue shows all composers represented in the collection and also their works in any special form. Indexes of subjects and of authors and composers are included. E. McC.

Hawkes, Arthur John, *ed.* Lancashire Printed Books : a bibliography of all the books printed in Lancashire down to the year 1800. Wigan : 1925. xxviii + 155 pp.

This work, based upon an exhibition of early Lancashire printed books held in the Wigan Reference Library during May, 1925, under the auspices of the Wigan Public Libraries Committee, is a pleasing example of co-operative effort in bibliographical work. Municipalities and private collectors throughout the County have lent books or supplied titles, and the resultant Catalogue, if it does not quite achieve the completeness at which it aims, is nevertheless a comprehensive and valuable work.

The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, Chairman of the Wigan Public Libraries Committee, writes a preface, in which graceful acknowledgement is made of the help received. Our members will be interested to read the special thanks accorded to Mr. Geoffrey R. Axon, President of our North-Western Division, for his valuable contributions, " the generous act of a true Bibliophile."

The Editor follows with an introduction in which he gives an extremely interesting survey of the history of printing in Lancashire, which begins with the notorious pamphlets of *Martin Marprelate*.

The Bibliography proper begins with a list of the productions of Birchley Hall, a secret Roman Catholic press, set up early in the 17th Century. Following are the various printing centres, arranged alphabetically, and under each the entries are arranged in chronological order. Entries give full names and descriptions of authors, title, place of printing and printer's name, date, size in inches, number of pages, and indications of where copies of the book may be found, while many elucidatory and historical notes are appended. The proof-reading and press-work have been done with great care (we notice one slip under Preston Guild, on p. 117), but, one little grumble, we should have liked an author index.

The work reflects great credit on all concerned in its production, and particularly on Mr. A. J. Hawkes, who has carried through an arduous and exacting task. One may hope that the example of Wigan will stimulate other workers to " go and do likewise." A series of county lists on this scale would bring within sight the desired bibliography of English literature. C. F. C.

Kernahan, Coulson. The Reading Girl: saunters in bookland, and chats on the choice of books and methods of reading. 250 pp. Harrap, 5s. net.

There is a chance that this little volume may be over-looked by librarians, and that would be a pity, because it seems to be just one of those books so

desirable in a general library. The author is a well-known editor, reviewer and critic, and the matter of which the book is mainly composed appeared as a series of articles in "The Woman's Magazine," where they were so much appreciated that their re-publication in an attractive volume has resulted. Mr. Kernahan's object is "so to form and to guide taste that, while not despising the humble 'better,' readers should care most for the great 'best'; and it is for those who are forming, not those who have already formed, their literary tastes, that the book is intended." This object is admirably carried out, the author not only writing with knowledge, but with an enthusiasm which can hardly fail to be inspiring to the adolescent reader who is so difficult as a rule to reach. The first chapter deals with "Libraries, free and subscription: how to use them," and while we should prefer the substitution of the word 'public' for 'free,' there can be no quarrel with the information conveyed. The following chapters deal with poetry, history, the essay, fiction and the use of reference books, dictionaries, etc., together with some suggestive advice on books for the pocket, reading aloud and quotation. Similar work in this direction has been done before, of course, many times, but Mr. Kernahan besides being up-to-date brings a freshness to his task which makes it seem quite new, while his gift of felicitous phrase, combined with a genuine love for the books about which he writes, succeeds in producing a volume which should not only be available in every public library, but should be brought definitely to the notice of all girls who show the least interest in reading, and the ingenious librarian can find means for profitably adapting the material for the use of boys.

Sanderson, Charles Rupert. *Library Law: a text-book for the professional examinations in library organisation.* 164 pp. 1925. (J. and E. Bumpus). Cl. bds. 6s. net.

This book ought to have been written by a lawyer, and not by a practical librarian. We can hear some such objection advanced against the volume before us, but to argue so is to miss entirely the purpose the author has had in mind, and he has himself forestalled such an objection by making it clear in the preface that his aim has been "to make the main body of library law intelligible from a library student's point of view, and not to answer intricate legal queries from a lawyer's point of view." Mr. Sanderson has thus earned the thanks of students of a difficult subject for the clear and concise way in which he has accomplished his task of explaining the present position of library law.

The first part of the volume has been given over to summaries of the statutory provisions, arranged in chronological order under England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland respectively. The various Acts have been reduced here to a minimum consistent with clearness, omitting as a general rule the repealed provisions.

Part two, which is, perhaps, even more useful, discusses the various provisions under a topical arrangement, such as how the Acts may be adopted, the constitution of committees and delegation of powers, provisions as to Committees, finance, rules and regulations, etc.

The third part outlines very briefly the special features of library legislation in the colonies, and in the United States. The brevity of this part notwithstanding, it is none the less useful as a general indication of the features governing such library provision.

Four appendices are added, most helpful of which we notice specimens of formal agreements between library authorities, and a selection of questions on library law set in recent professional examinations.

The physical form of the book is attractive except in its binding, which we can forgive for the sake of the benefit which the author has conferred upon students in providing a book such as has been long needed.

H. A. S.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

- Chesterton (G. K.). *Tales of the Long Bow.* (Cassell, 7/6.)  
 This book, which no other man living or dead could have thought of, is descended on one side from "The Club of Queer Trades," and on the other from "The Napoleon of Notting Hill."—*J. C. Squire.*
- Coppard (A. E.). *The Fishmonger's Fiddle.* (Cape, 7/6.)  
 "Mr. Coppard is a born story teller . . . every volume he gives us yields a handful, if no more, of memorable tales."—*Times Lit. Sup.*
- Hudson (W. H.). *Men, Books, and Birds: letters to a friend; with notes, some letters and an introduction by Morley Roberts.* (Nash & Grayson, 16/-.)
- Smith (Logan Pearsall). *Words and Idioms.* (Constable, 7/6.)  
 "That Mr. Pearsall Smith has a delicate palate for words must be known to everyone who has ever read his 'Trivia'; this book testifies also to his argumentative power and his wide, though never paraded, scholarship."—*The Observer.*
- Stinde (Julius). *Masterful Wilhelmine. Presented to English readers by E. V. Lucas.* (Methuen, 7/6.)  
 An English translation of the German humorous "Die Familie Buchholz," and its companions. Mr. E. V. Lucas has endeavoured to select the most entertaining passages from the four volumes which form the series, and by this means hopes to introduce names of people to the English reader, which for more than fifty years have been household words in Germany.
- Stribling (T. S.). *Birthright: a novel.* (Collins, 7/6.)  
 Deals with the Negro problem in the U. S. A.
- Toyohiko Kagawa. *Before the Dawn: a novel.* (Chatto, 7/6.)  
 Translated from the Japanese. Over 300,000 copies of this work have been sold. "The secret of its success lies in its sincerity and its humanity . . . is a book essential to the proper understanding of modern Japan."—*New Statesman.*
- Woolf (Virginia). *The Common Reader.* (Hogarth Press, 12/6.)  
 Essays on minor literary figures and famous authors.

G. F. V.

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.\*

By HENRY A. SHARP, F.L.A.,

*Deputy-Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.*

In the first place, let me say how sensible I am of the great honour you have done me to-day in permitting me to occupy the high office of President of this Association, the only strictly professional Association that we have, and one that is year by year becoming a force to be reckoned with more and more in the field of organized librarianship.

I can only thank you very cordially, and assure you that throughout my term of office it shall be my best endeavour to serve you faithfully, and to emulate to the best of my ability the examples of those who have occupied the office before me, with credit and even with distinction.

\* Delivered at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Association of Assistant Librarians at Walthamstow, 10th June, 1925.



As an earnest of a new President's interest in the Association' it is always his first duty to deliver here and now an address which shall stimulate the interest and enthusiasm of its members, and shall discuss some aspect of our work as librarians, or review the position as it presents itself at a given time.

If one may be allowed to say so, this task is amongst the most difficult that a President can be called upon to perform during his whole term of office, if he is not to traverse ground that has been gone over again and again already.

Perhaps, when I have finished, you will think that your President has transgressed in this respect to-night by going over some of this ground yet again. But while craving your pardon if I am offending it appears to me that on this occasion there is a certain justification for the lapse. As an Association we are passing a landmark to-night in that we are entering upon the fourth decade of our existence as a corporate body, holding as we are now our thirtieth annual meeting, and holding it very fittingly too, in a library which is presided over by one of our early members and officers. Added to this, we remember too, that it is three-quarters of a century in August since the first Public Libraries Act of 1850 was passed. If these two things were not in themselves sufficient justification for a glance backwards, and an eager look ahead, I need only remind you that the Government of our day and generation has seen fit to visit us and to focus a certain amount of attention upon us by appointing a real Government Committee to enquire into our *raison d'être*, and I, with many others, am confident, that whether or not anything eventuates as a consequence of the deliberations of this Committee, the future of libraries, of librarianship, and of library workers, is bright with hope. It is a hard and tedious process to get the trend of public opinion turned in a desired direction, but we have not been on the Statute Book for the three-quarters of a century referred to for nothing, and we may say that we have got there at last.

It has taken a long time, but one wonders sometimes whether, even now, we are ready as a whole for the higher values which are being placed upon us. Dead stocks, indifferent staffs, repellent public rooms, a low estimate of ourselves, all of these things are still with us in a certain measure, and for each and all of them there is no longer any shadow of excuse.

From this meeting to-night, then, may there go out a clear clarion call for efficiency, both as regards our own personal work in the library service, and for a general awakening to a sense of the great public charge that is laid upon us.

Reverting to my earlier statement, and at the risk of being wearisome, I reiterate that the mere fact of this Association having existed for thirty years is a sufficient justification for taking stock briefly of its



position in the field to-day. Our growth has been steady if not as rapid as we might have wished, but there are distinct indications that in the future it is going to be much more so than it has been hitherto, as witness the fact that even in the past three years we have enrolled 255 new members.

We have at the present time, 878 members on our roll, and it is estimated, on the authority of the Carnegie Report, that some 3,565 people are engaged in public library work in this country, so that in these thirty years we have roped in about 25 per cent. of the whole. Not so bad you may say; true, but it is not a position of which we can be *entirely* proud, or even satisfied, and it is certainly not the way in which the cause of librarianship and of the assistant librarian—which we hope are one—can be advanced as we would wish to see it advanced, or the status of librarianship raised from within as we should all like to see it raised. I use the words “from within” designedly, because, while there can be no question that its status *is* being raised, it rests largely with us to decide whether it is to be done by an internal or by an external agency.

Hours, conditions of appointment and service, professional education and training, opportunities for social intercourse, and even remuneration, are all within the purview of the Association's work, but, if one may be allowed to say so, our position would be strengthened if we could say definitely in support of all our propaganda and activities that we had a membership of, say, 75 per cent. of the public library workers of the country, instead of the 25 per cent. which has been mentioned, for there is always strength in numbers. The case of the Government Committee which is now sitting is a particular case in point. We are not without critics, and it is often found to be the case that those who are most critical are amongst those who are either outside our ranks, or are at the best, sleeping members.

I am betraying no confidence when I tell you that as an Association we are going, by invitation, to lay evidence before that Committee on your behalf, and I cannot help thinking for my own part, that we should have gone with even more confidence than we do, and with a very much stronger case, had we been able to say definitely that we were acting directly and authoritatively on behalf of practically the whole of the assistant librarians of the country, instead of only for 25 per cent. of them.

But, ladies and gentlemen, I would not have you think that I am taking a pessimistic view of things; my conviction is far otherwise, but I am merely stating the position as we find it, with a view to stimulating your enthusiasm in our cause. Speaking for the Council as well as for myself, we want you each to be not merely a “paying” member, but a worker. There are, I repeat, indications that the Association is going to grow during the next decade at least as much as

it has grown during the past three, and to my provincial colleagues I would say emphatically, that one of the ways in which this growth will be brought about will be through the agencies of new Divisions, working up and down the country with an enthusiasm equal to that displayed by those in the Eastern Counties, where your Honorary Secretary and myself were privileged to inaugurate a new Division the other day. And I want to say here and now, how deeply I admire the keenness of those who work in the provinces, often under such difficulties as it is hard for us to appreciate. The good fellowship that exists, the readiness to help younger colleagues through voluntary classes, the *esprit de corps*, are worthy of our emulation and support.

Whatever else you may forget of what is said to-night, please remember that each one of you should be a Missionary for the cause of librarianship in general, and for the A.A.L. in particular, because you, by your attitude towards our work, are helping to make librarianship what it will be in the coming years, and you may take it that it is going to be no small thing. Judging by the large number of people who are so anxious to gain a footing in the profession to-day that they are even willing to work for nothing, this fact seems to be appreciated outside if it is not realized within.

There is no lack of evidence that we are at the dawning of great and golden days for librarianship, not only in this country indeed, but on the Continent as well. We never received so much attention at the hands of the general press as we are receiving to-day, and it is serious attention too. Nor has there been any dearth of attention from responsible authorities since the War, an event which, although it threatened to extinguish us completely in its earlier stages, really gave us our charter to liberty in the Libraries Act of 1919. Moreover, the Report drawn up on us by the Adult Education Committee in 1919 is a document of which every library worker has a right to be proud, especially when he remembers that it was drawn up by a body upon which we, as a profession, had no direct representation whatever.

This in turn was followed by the Report on the Public Library System of Great Britain drawn up by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, and now, as a fitting culmination, we have the Government Committee on Libraries, to which reference has been made already.

I hope that I have now said enough to indicate to the most dubious amongst you that "we have arrived" so to speak, and perhaps I may be allowed to digress now for a few minutes into one or two things which are calling for our serious consideration to-day.

A good deal has been said and written lately, and is still being said and written, about the future of libraries, which naturally involves the future of librarians and their staffs, although some people seem to overlook or to ignore the fact. There is a great fear in some quarters that some very dreadful fate is going to befall us all, a fate, which is, vaguely stated, that we are going to be "taken over" lock, stock and

barrel, by the Education authority. Nobody knows precisely what this is going to involve, even if it happens, but it is assumed that the result *must* be deleterious to libraries—and presumably to those who administer them.

Personally, I am not at all convinced that these fears are going to be warranted. Some of us can remember that when the old Boards of Commissioners were superseded twenty-six years ago in London, similar fears were abroad, but time has shown that the change was the finest thing that could have happened for the London libraries. And so it may well be again. It all depends. If by this "taking over" you mean that we are going to be subordinated rigidly to the formal education machine, then, of course, we are agreed, that while the function of the library is undeniably an educational one, the term must be interpreted in a very liberal sense, remembering that even our most formal educationists recognize that education and recreation go hand in hand for quite a long way, and that education is something that extends far beyond the ten or twelve years of school life.

On the contrary, provided that we can retain our separate libraries committees as they are at present constituted, which shall have *direct* access to the Ministry, and provided further that the term education is interpreted in a liberal sense, I cannot but think myself that the future of libraries will be secure, and that the status of librarianship will be raised as it has not been raised by any other means up to now. The library movement has reached a point when it is a force to be reckoned with; it is attracting into its service the very class of people who were at one time its bitterest opponents, and, as far as I can see, the Ministry of Education is the only body under which we can be reasonably expected to come, unless we are going to see established what should be, a Ministry of Arts, but a rather unlikely event in these days.

But it is not for me here to digress further into the vexed question of library organization and control. I am only concerned with it tonight as it affects the future of librarianship, and of the assistant librarian. And it *does* seem to me that here we—shall I say speaking selfishly—can have nothing to lose, and perhaps something to gain by a change of control such as that to which reference has been made, but always maintaining as we do that librarianship is a clearly defined profession, demanding not only a good general education, but a wide knowledge of books and bibliography as can come only through practical experience with, and the actual handling of, all such material.

It is all very well to say that the rate limitation has been removed by Statute—we are thankful that it has—but it does not follow as a natural corollary that we must *ipso facto* be a lot better off than we were in the days of the old penny rate with its much greater spending power. In many places incomes are *still* totally inadequate for present demands—68.7 of the libraries scheduled in the Carnegie Report did not exceed

a 1½d. rate—library staffs are *still* paid worse than those of any other department of the municipal service—one-fifth of those scheduled had salaries bills of less than £100, and more than two-fifths had them of less than £300—and hours of duty are certainly longer or infinitely more inconvenient than they are in those other departments. It is true to say that there is a scale of salaries in existence which *ought* to be paid, and it is equally true to say that recommendations have been made by this Association regarding hours of duty, *but*, because there is no co-ordination of libraries, because they are nobody's business in particular, every library authority may go its own sweet way as it sees fit, although we acknowledge with gratitude the marked improvements that *have* been effected generally in all these respects within recent years. I will not bore you to-night by being reminiscent, but that things *are* better cannot be denied. Those of you who have been in the service for upwards of 15 or 20 years know it well enough.

And I want to say here that this Association has been responsible in no small measure for the better state of things that we find to-day, largely as a result of the publication in 1911 of the Report on Hours, Salaries, Training and Conditions of Service of Assistants.

But it has been, and is, a slow process, and so I suggest that, economically and financially, libraries and library staffs will certainly not be worse off than they are at present, even if this terrible thing *does* happen. But perhaps we had better do what a wise statesman once advised—"Wait and See."

This brings me to another thing I feel it incumbent on me to say. It is a plea to my fellow-workers, especially to you younger ones, to look upon librarianship in the future as something more than a mere means of earning a livelihood. Put something into it besides taking all you can get out of it. It *is* this, of course, and it is because even now the livelihood is so meagre, in some cases that one who enjoys a comfortable salary and congenial conditions of working must feel somewhat of a hypocrite in asking those others who may be less fortunate, to have a high ideal of librarianship, transcending the mere mercenary outlook which, unfortunately, seems to be growing more general amongst us. We *do* want to work for a higher standard of remuneration, and we *do* want to secure good conditions of service, but we want through this Association which, I remind you is a professional Association, to stimulate within each other a reverence and a love for the books under our charge, a sense of being engaged in a great social service. Our work is humanising work, it is intellectual and uplifting, and it partakes of the nature of the priest's or the doctor's work rather than of that of the schoolmaster, the lawyer or the business man. Mr. Jast made this delightfully clear to some of us a few years back in an article called *Priest—Physician—Librarian*. He said, "No priest can lend nobility and dignity to his calling, it is his calling which lends dignity to *him* and provides him with the opportunity for service. Happy are

those who, in doing the necessary daily task which supports them, can find therein ample scope for that unselfish service to the community which every man who has risen beyond the limitations of the personal self and of the family, desires in the measure of his time and capacity and strength to perform. Is it claiming too much to claim that the profession of librarian is worthy to stand alongside those of the priest and of the physician? I think not."

My plea, then, ladies and gentlemen, is for a high view of our profession. For too many years we have heard the library service spoken of as the cinderella of the municipal service, a blind-alley occupation, and in similar belittling sentiments. However true such sayings may have been in bygone days, there is no excuse for their admission to-day. Libraries and librarianship are now only a cinderella if you and I—and others—choose to let them be so.

As a President is reputed to be invested with the gift of prophecy on this occasion, you will expect me to say something of what I think our Association may do in the future. I will try my hand at it. But let me hasten to say at once that we are not going to acclaim the librarian's millennium at once, although, given a large measure of your support, we are at least prepared to make our quota towards ushering in the dawning of the hey-day of librarianship.

In the first place, then, just as our work is in itself a great social service, so I think our Association has a great social function to perform on behalf of its members. It has been said that man is a social animal, and it is imperative, if we are going to work to the best of our ability that we shall have reasonable opportunities for social intercourse along the lines of our work, in addition to fulfilling our general social obligations. There has been far too little of it in the past, at any rate for that majority of our colleagues who work in the provinces, removed by considerable distances from each other, and hampered by the necessary exigencies of the service.

Here, then, if I may say so, is one way in which our Association has a future in front of it. Even we who work in the greater centres have recognized the necessity of better facilities for social intercourse, and have borne it in mind in planning our programmes lately.

We may not stop here, however, but must regard this as only a beginning, although we must say an important beginning. We have a great educational future in front of us. Higher general and professional educational demands are being made of us now than ever before, and these demands require the provision of more facilities for professional education than were afforded in previous days. This, again, is a matter which is at present engaging the serious attention of your Council. A sub-committee has been formed to report on the facilities that exist for professional education and to make, if possible, proper arrangements for the better co-ordination of the work by means of both oral and correspondence classes. It might, indeed, surprise

some of you if I had time to tell you how much work is being done in this connection through the enthusiasm of some of our Divisions. Suffice it to say for now that in the future this Association is going to take a much greater part in the professional education of its members than it has done before.

And then there is the general question of library policy, to which some reference has been made already. While it is no part of this Association's duty to dictate on matters of general library policy, there *are* things which affect vitally the well-being of assistants; I mean such things as conditions of appointments, hours of duty, remuneration and such like. Your Council is fully alive to all these responsibilities, and only asks every assistant to give it the full measure of his or her support through an active membership of the Association. Time and time again our advice has been sought on all these matters, and what is yet more important, it has been acted upon. Nor have we always waited for our advice to be sought, when circumstances have demanded we have not hesitated to act, and, generally speaking, our advice has been accepted in the spirit it was given.

I might continue to talk to you in this strain for a long time, and I might even make excursions into avenues which I have left unexplored—partly out of sympathy for my successor in office next year, and partly from a desire not to bore you unduly on such a summer's day as this.

With your permission then, ladies and gentlemen, may I conclude by once more thanking you for having entrusted me with this office for the ensuing year, a year which has every sign of being an important and interesting one both in the annals of our Association and of our profession. And for you, too, my warmest hope is that the year ahead may hold much good in store, but above all else, my plea is for a high ideal of our work and a sense of the responsibility that is laid upon us, for it is only as we can demonstrate to the outside world our value and our willingness to give of our best, that librarianship can ever become what we all want to see it become, a profession of which every follower may be justly proud.

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## THE DIVISIONS.

### NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The fourth meeting of the session was held at the Central Public Library, Wigan, on Wednesday, 27th May, 1925. The attendance was very satisfactory and represented the following libraries: Birkenhead, Bolton, Manchester, Runcorn, St. Helens, Salford, Stockport, Warrington and Wigan.

The party assembled in the Old Council Chamber where a civic welcome was accorded by the Mayor (Councillor T. Holland, M.B.E., J.P.), who was accompanied by Mr. J. M. Ainscough, J.P. The Mayor said that as the days went by it almost seemed as if he was becoming part of the Wigan library staff, inasmuch as it had been his duty and pleasure to welcome the members

of various associations to Wigan in connection with visits they had paid to the exhibition of early Lancashire printed books.

The principal object of our visit was to inspect this exhibition of Lancashire printed books before 1800. The inspection was preceded by an explanatory paper on the ideals and practical advantages of the exhibition by Mr. A. J. Hawkes, Chief Librarian, Wigan.

The exhibition, he said, was the first, so far as he knew, to cover the whole of a county. In interest it appealed in many different ways, to the bibliophile, bibliographer and librarian for its book-interest; to the artistic for the beauty of some of the early fonts of type, chiefly those of the Warrington Press. It had a psychological interest in that it showed the public attitude of mind of the period in which the books were printed; and an antiquarian and historical interest through the intimate connections of the exhibits with the 16th and 17th centuries.

The party then visited the exhibition, and saw the specimens of the early printers' art. Presses of Preston, Liverpool, Warrington, Manchester, Wigan, including the secret Birchley Hall Press, and other Lancashire towns being well represented.

Tea was kindly provided by Mr. Hawkes and his staff. Afterwards the party were conducted through the Council Chamber, where the Corporation plate, sword and staff of office were on view, through the police court and the fire station. After having had the details of the modern fire-engine explained, a test call was made, allowing us an opportunity of seeing the firemen in action.

The evening meeting commenced with a paper by the President (Mr. G. R. Axon) on "Manchester in fiction." There are many novelists nowadays who are definitely associated with a certain district because they have made that district the scene of their novels, Arnold Bennett with the Five Towns, Stoke, Burslem, etc., Thomas Hardy with Wessex, and so on, but, said Mr. Axon, there is no writer of note who has concentrated on Manchester as a source for his scenes.

The speaker then gave numerous references to the City from the works of Harold Brighouse, Gilbert Cannan, L. P. Jacks, J. E. Preston Muddock, and Mrs. Humphry Ward, but most of these referred to Manchester of the last century, to Manchester as a whole, to its streets, its Cathedral, railway stations, and even to its public-library. From L. P. Jacks "Legends of Smoke-over," was read a description of Manchester of to-day, and from R. A. Knox "Memories of the future," a word about Manchester as it will be in 1953, with its "moving platform in Market Street, said to be the fastest in the world, the wireless installation on the Cathedral which records all the movements of German theology hours before any other English centre, . . . the super-landing stages on Kersal Moor . . ."

Mr. A. Howarth, Deputy Librarian, Wigan, followed with a paper on "Harriet Beecher Stowe and Slavery." At the outset the essayist outlined the conditions in America, particularly in the Southern States, as they affected the system of slavery. The success of the cotton industry in the Southern States had whetted the desire for an increase of territory, and an increase of cheap labour. The Northern States, however, were antagonistic to slave conditions and wished to prevent any further territorial additions to the slave states. This raised a fierce protest from the South. Many great names were on the list of Northern champions, but their fight against slavery advanced very slowly until the publication of Harriet Beecher Stowe's great masterpiece. This work had an enormous circulation throughout the States, North and South and also in Europe. It was the chief factor in bringing the evils of slavery to the notice of all. Almost in a day Mrs. Stowe had become the most talked of woman in the world.

Mr. Howarth then gave a resume of Mrs. Stowe's life and told of how upon hearing of the dreadful treatment of the slave she "rose up from the



chair crushing the letter in her hand and with an expression on her face that stamped itself upon the mind of her child, said: "I will write something, I will, if I live."

The meeting concluded with hearty votes of thanks to Mr. Hawkes and his staff for their very efficient co-operation in making the meeting such a success; and to the speakers for their exceedingly interesting papers.

WM. THRELFALL, *Hon. Sec.*

#### SOUTH COAST DIVISION.

A Meeting of the Western Section was held at Winchester on Wednesday, 20th May, and was attended by members from Bournemouth, Portsmouth and Southampton.

The party first visited the Cathedral Library, over which they were conducted by the Rev. Canon Goodman, B.D., Hon. Assistant Librarian, whose instructive remarks concerning the Library's bibliographical treasures rendered the visit doubly interesting.

Tea was served in the Abbey House, where the visitors were the guests of the Ex-Mayor and Chairman of the Winchester Library Committee, Councillor H. P. Vacher, and Mrs. Vacher. Councillor Vacher in a genial speech extended a warm welcome to all present. Thanks were expressed to Councillor and Mrs. Vacher by Mr. James Hutt, M.A., Borough Librarian, Portsmouth.

After tea the party returned to the Cathedral, over which they were conducted by a guide, whose extensive knowledge of the architectural features thereof rendered the visit of extreme interest.

The evening meeting was held at the Abbey House, Mr. James Hutt, M.A. (Borough Librarian, Portsmouth) being in the Chair. A paper was read by Mr. F. A. Richards, Portsmouth, on "Qualifications for Librarianship." During the discussion which followed several members commented on the action of certain County Authorities in appointing untrained persons as County Librarians.

A very successful Meeting was concluded with votes of thanks to Mr. F. W. C. Pepper, City Librarian, Winchester, for having arranged such an attractive programme, and Mr. F. A. Richards for his interesting paper.

J. V. S.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

\*BEACH, L. H., to be Second Assistant Librarian, Portsmouth.

\*COOPER, F. J., Second Assistant Librarian, to be First Assistant Librarian, Portsmouth.

\*CREED, W. T., Senior Assistant, Coventry Public Libraries, to be Deputy Librarian, Fulham Public Libraries. Salary, £200 + £70 14s. 2d. bonus.

The other candidates selected for interview were A. L. Carver, Swindon; \*W. J. A. Hahn, Camberwell; R. E. Lyde, Cheltenham; \*F. S. Smith, Bethnal Green.

Mr. Smith withdrew before the appointment was made.

\*JACKSON, C. M., Sunderland Public Libraries, to be Assistant Birmingham Public Libraries. Salary, incl. bonus, £275, plus allowance for L.A. certificates.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

**Midland Division.** *Associates:* Misses M. E. C. Clegg and K. N. Humphries, Birmingham.

**North Western Division:** Miss E. Woods and G. Berry, Accrington; T. Noble, Salford.

\* Member A. A. L.